

SECRET

8 Sep 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence  
VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)  
SUBJECT: CIA Support to BND in Security Case

1. This memorandum recommends that you sign the attached outgoing cable (Tab B) and provides you pertinent background.

2. Our close collaboration with the West German Intelligence Service (BND) on matters concerning BND staff security stems from the days of our subsidy of the predecessor Gehlen Organization. Our rather deep insight into their security problems was even further intensified during the past year when a Polish defector provided us information duly passed on to the BND, concerning alleged staff penetrations of the BND. We have conducted a joint investigation of BND leads.

3. In connection with this investigation General Gehlen some months ago requested CIA to provide support to the BND in the form of surveillance assistance. He has now asked us to supply a surreptitious entry team to enter and search the summer home of the principal suspect, a staff member of the BND. Our support is requested because the BND does not wish to brief other German elements in detail owing to the sensitivity of the case. The BND surveillance assets are all personally known to the suspect, and one or more of them may be sufficiently friendly with the suspect to advise him of investigation against him.

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4. Now, as we had asked him to do, General Gehlen has put his request for surreptitious entry support in writing and handed it to the DCI (Tab A). Gehlen has guaranteed full backstopping with German agencies should the need arise. The strict compartmentation accorded this case within the BND as well as the obvious fact that the service being provided is clearly a positive contribution to overall German security, minimizes the risk of political repercussions. It is our belief that the risks of detection and resultant significant embarrassment are minimal, and distinctly outweighed by the liaison advantage alone. Discovery of evidence leading to apprehension and conviction of a hostile penetration within the BND would constitute a major success. We therefore recommend that you sign Tab B, authorizing Chief of Station, Germany to proceed.

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Gordon M. Stewart  
Chief, Eastern European Division

2 Attachments

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